

Bluffs of Beaver Bend Nature Preserve

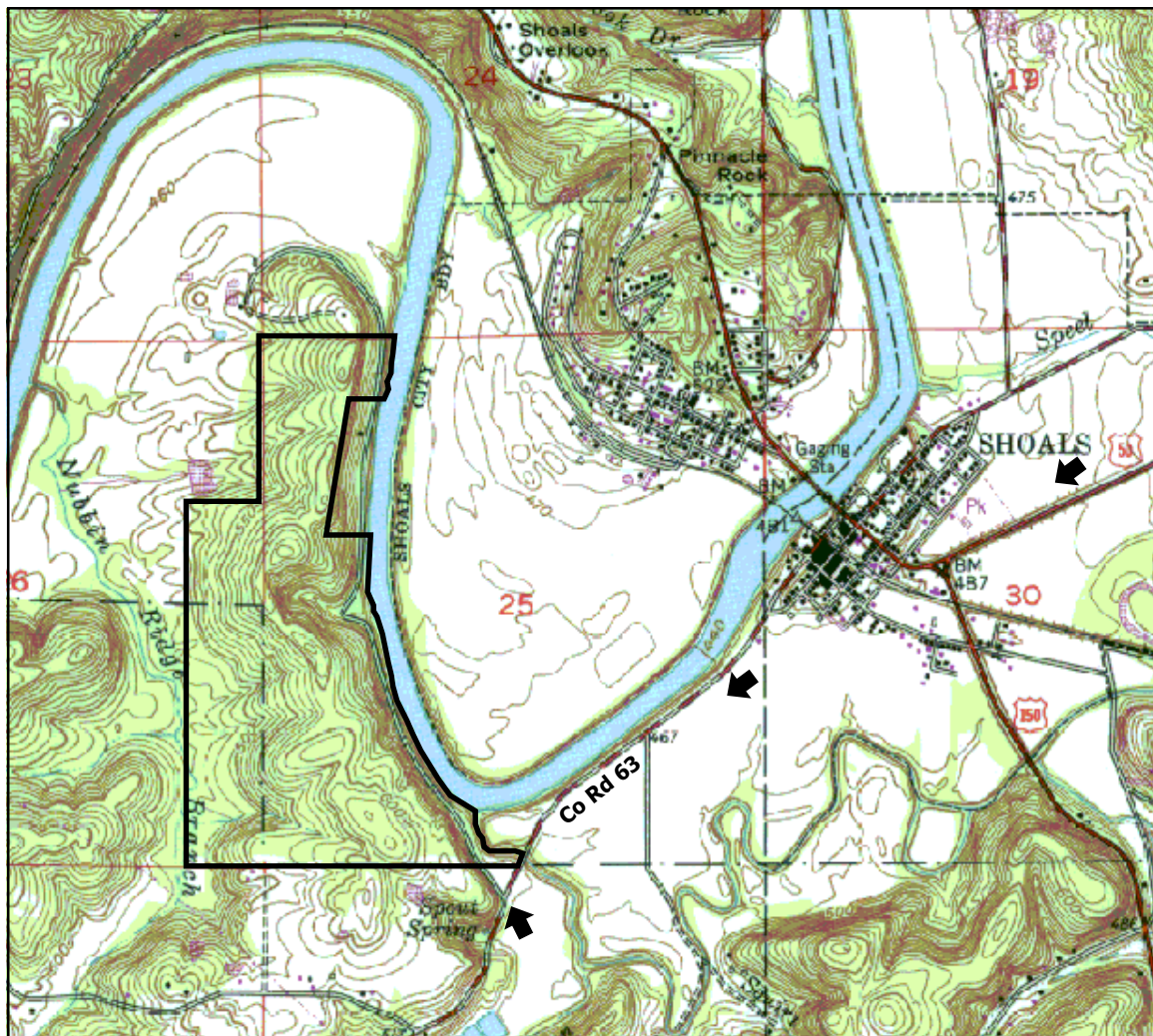
County: Martin
Ownership: Nature Preserves - IDNR

Size: 210 acres



Location and Access

Parking lot, no trail. Lane is gated at the parking lot. US 50/150 runs through Shoals. Take US 50 into town. Turn left (south) onto Water St (Co. Rd. 63), which is immediately east of the bridge over the White River. Go south to Spout Springs Rd, a 'T' on the right. The preserve is on both sides of the road. The parking lot is about 0.13 mi up the lane.



Further Information:

Division of Nature Preserves. 402 W Washington St, Rm W267. Indianapolis IN 46204-2739.
317-232-0209. www.in.gov/dnr/naturepr

Description:

This 210-acre preserve is dedicated in memory of Juliette Hoiles DeStaebler (1903-1950), a former owner of the property. It consists of a mile long, steep-sided bluff situated in a bend of the White River. The principal natural features of the property include cliffs and rockshelters of Mansfield sandstone running the length of the bluff, and mesic and dry-mesic forest communities. The various habitats support a diversity of plant species, in particular a wide variety of ferns. Additionally this stretch of the White River is considered significant for its healthy mussel populations and several rare fish species. Bald eagles frequent this stretch of river and are common visitors to the property.

William Barnes, the first director of the Division of Nature Preserves, wrote in a 1969 article in *Outdoor Indiana* that "The scenic quality of this unique area must not be overlooked. One may stand on several promontories about 100 feet above the river. The view of the bend to the east is spectacular with churches and buildings in Shoals standing out in relief against the backdrop of distant hills. The view to the north reveals the tree-bordered river adjoining farmed bottomland with high hills beyond."

The nature preserve was acquired through the assistance of the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and the Indiana Heritage Trust.

